GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:987
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2002
KRISHNA WATER TRIBUNAL
R.L. JALAPPA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent any proposal to the Union Government to set up Krishna Water Tribunal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to release surplus water to Karnataka and other States?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) & (b) The State of Karnataka has in September 2002sent a letter of complaint under section 3 of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956. In the letter, it has been stated that a Water dispute has arisen with the Govt. of the State of Andhra Pradesh and with the Government of the State of Maharashtra by reason of the fact that the interests of the State of Karnataka and its inhabitants in the waters of Inter-State river Krishna and its valley have been or are likely to be prejudicially affected by :

i. the executive action of the Government of the State of Andhra Pradesh in utilizing (even before allocation) the surplus waters by way of permanent construction of large scale projects and water reservoirs and refusing to share the surplus water i.e., waters in excess of 2130 Thousand Million Cubic feet (TMC) (2060 TMC plus 70 TMC return flow) at 75% dependability;

ii. the executive actions of the respective Governments of the State of Andhra Pradesh and of Maharashtra in refusing to agree to the raising of the height of Almatti dam from Full Reservoir Level (FRL) 519.6 meter to 524.256 meter as proposed and planned by the State of Karnataka;

iii. the executive actions of the Government of Mahrashtra in creating in the Krishna basin a total live storage capacity of 560 TMC having a potential to use the surplus waters i.e., water in excess of 2130 TMC (2060 TMC plus 70 TMC return flow) at 75% dependability;

iv. the executive actions of the Government of the State of Mahrashtrea in failing to maintainadequate summer flows in the Bheema river in the Krishna valley at the Inter-State border duringthe months of November to May in every water year; and the consequent failure of the Government of the State of Maharashtra to exercise their powers with respect to the use, distribution and control of the waters of the Krishna river. It has been requested in the letter to (i) by notification in the Official Gazette to Constitute a Water Dispute Tribual under Sec.4 (1) of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956; and (ii) Referto the Tribunal so constituted for adjudication and decision, the water disputes and matters connected with or relevant to the water disputes (as well interim measures) emerging from this letter of complaint.

(c) As per the provision of Act, Central Government is required toinitiate steps for finding a negotiated settlement of the disputes failing which the dispute is required to be referred to the Tribunal for adjudication within one year from the receipt of the complaint.